



STATUS OF THE STATE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2009, the General Assembly revised statutes regarding the State School Technology Plan (SSTP) and the School Technology Commission (Commission). This report contains highlights of the revised statutes; requirements for the SSTP; an update on the progress thus far in meeting the revised statutory mandate, including an overview of the internal North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) SSTP Working Committee; and a brief description of how the SSTP relates to LEA Technology Plans.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS AND CHANGES

The State School Technology Plan (SSTP) provides a framework for the effective use of technology Statewide to meet the State Board of Education's goals and objectives. The SSTP also provides a framework for the creation of LEA technology plans that align with the SSTP.

In the summer of 2009, the General Assembly revised the SSTP and Commission statutes in the following two key areas:

1. Governance and Responsibility for Plan Creation.
Prior statute placed the responsibility of the creation of the SSTP on the Commission. Current legislation places the responsibility for the creation of the SSTP on the State Board of Education (SBE), with guidance from the Commission.
2. Scope of Plan and Cycle for Implementation
Previously, the statute required a new SSTP every four years, with updates every two years, or as needed based upon technology or SBE goal changes. The revised timeline shortens the cycle to two years, with the SBE approving a new SSTP in January of every odd year, beginning in January of 2011.

For further detail regarding the changes, see Tables 1-3 in Appendix A, Table 1

STATUS OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR PLAN CREATION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has been charged with the oversight and creation of the SSTP, with input from the Commission. In order to carry out the work of the SBE, the NCDPI has convened a cross-agency internal working committee. This working committee, chaired by the director of Instructional Technology, is composed of individuals from the following agency areas: Academic Services and Instructional Support, Financial and Business Services, and Technology Services. The need for an agency-wide working committee, with partners and stakeholders actively involved, is critical, as it provides a model for LEAs and Charter Schools to follow as they begin the

work on their individual School and LEA Technology Plans. The DPI internal working committee will meet monthly, beginning in the winter of 2010 and will operate in lockstep with the Commission, as the Commission provides input and guidance.

STATUS OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

The SBE has reconvened the Commission, which includes some newly appointed members, and the Chairman of the State Board of Education has selected a chairperson to lead the Commission (See Appendix B. for membership). The Commission held its first meeting in December 2009, and it has identified several goals for upcoming meetings. During these meetings, the Commission will discuss the current status of technology in North Carolina's schools and current initiatives. Later meetings will focus on gathering input and guidance for the new SSTP. Though the Commission is only required to meet twice a year, the group has decided to meet monthly until the short session of the General Assembly convenes in 2010. After such time, the NCDPI working committee will continue drafting the SSTP, and the Commission will give final approval by October of 2010.

STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW STATE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

A revised SSTP is due to be approved by the SBE in January of 2011 and to be implemented beginning July 1, 2011. The two-year plan will effective through June 30, 2013. In order to develop the new SSTP, the DPI internal working committee has reviewed the current plan and recommended scope and components of the new plan.

NEW REQUIREMENTS AND SCOPE FOR THE STATE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

In developing the new SSTP, the Commission and staff will need to consider several changes to the requirements and scope of the plan. As with the current SSTP, the new SSTP will be aligned to the guiding mission of the State Board of Education. Moving the SSTP from a four-to-five year implementation to a two-year implementation time span, however, will enable the plan to include the most up-to-date school and classroom technologies. The schedule for the revision of the US National Education Technology Plan will also allow the Commission to consider aligning the SSTP with the new National Education Technology Plan.

In the past, the long implementation timeline made it difficult for either the SSTP or LEA technology plans to include up-to-date technologies. Because the SSTP approval will always occur one year before the new LEA technology plans are due to the State Board of Education, LEA technology plans can truly mirror the content, goals, and objectives of the SSTP.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND TIMELINE FOR PRODUCING SSTP

Key milestones for the Commission and SSTP are listed below. A more in-depth timeline is included in Appendix C.

To Date:

December 2009: Internal NCDPI Working Group participation determined

December 2009: Commission meeting

January 2010: Commission Chairperson named

January 2010: Internal NCDPI Working Group begins drafting plan

Future:

January 2010 – October 2010: With input from the Commission and LEAs, internal NCDPI working group drafts new SSTP

December 2010: New SSTP Presented to SBE for information

January 2010: New SSTP Presented to SBE for approval

February 2011: New SSTP Presented to JLEOC

APPENDIX A, TABLE 1.

State School Technology Planning
GS 115C-102.5-102.15

State School Technology Plan	
Responsible for Plan	State Board of Education
Staff for Plan	NCDPI will provide staff for plan
Purposes of Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the effective use of technology is built into the North Carolina Public School System for the purpose of preparing a globally competitive workforce and citizenry for the 21st century • ensure equity and access to school technology for all segments of the public school population in North Carolina • to provide a cost-effective foundation of flexible technology and infrastructure to promote substantial gains in student achievement.
Description of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SSTP shall be a comprehensive State implementation plan for using funds from the State School Technology Fund and other sources to improve student performance in the public schools through the use of learning and instructional management technologies.
Plan Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board of Education • State Chief Information Officer
Implementation Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every two years, on the odd numbered year (beginning 2011) OR • When significant changes occur (e.g. new Essential Standards, SBE goals, technology)
Reporting on the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status – every February 1 • New Plan – every odd February 1

APPENDIX A., TABLE 2.

State School Technology Planning GS 115C-102.5-102.15 School Technology Commission	
Role	Advisory group to SBE Provide input and feedback on the SSTP prior to approval
Administratively Located	External advisory to SBE
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Superintendent or designee • 1 College/University representative • 1 Community College representative • 2 Governor appointed • 2 Senate appointed • 2 House appointed • ITS representative
Member Appointments	Every 2 years; Replacements by original appointers
Membership Eligibility	<p>Members can not be producers, vendors, or consultants to producers or vendors of learning or instructional management technologies</p> <p>Appointments by Governor, Senate, and House must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individuals with technical or applied knowledge or experience in learning and instructional management technologies <u>or</u> • individuals with expertise in curriculum or instruction who have successfully used learning and instructional management technologies
Chairman of Commission	Appointed by Chairman of the State Board of Education
Frequency of Meetings	At least twice yearly

Staff	NCDPI shall staff commission as needed
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APPENDIX A., TABLE 3.

**State School Technology Planning
GS 115C-102.5-102.15**

LEA School Technology Plans	
LEA Plan Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligned with and meet the requirements of the SSTP
Responsible for Creating LEA Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEA • LEAs encouraged to include Technology Plans as part of strategic plans for entire district • Assistance from NCDPI
Evaluates Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI • Based upon technological and instructional aspects of the plan
Approves Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBE - Upon NCDPI Evaluations of LEA plans
Monitoring	<p>NCDPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitors plans • Ensures implementation • Provides technical assistance
Funding for Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds cannot be accessed until plans are approved. • All State funds, including State School Technology Funds spent by LEA on technology must be used to implement LEA technology plans

APPENDIX B, TABLE 1

**State School Technology Commission
Membership**

APPOINTING BODY	APPOINTEE
Governor	Mr. Derek McCoy, Director of Curriculum and Innovation, Montgomery County Schools
Governor	Currently Vacant*
NC House	NC Representative Joe Tolson, District 23**
NC House	NC Representative Earl Jones, District 60
NC Senate	NC Senator Josh Stein, District 16
NC Senate	Mr. Reid Parrott
College/University Representative	John Killebrew, Vice President, North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) Community Support
Community College Representative	Dr. Saundra Williams, Sr. Vice President for Technology and Workforce Development, NC Community College System
State Superintendent	Dr. June Atkinson, Superintendent, NCDPI
NC ITS Representative	Mr. Gerald L. Fralick, State Chief Information Officer

*awaiting governor reappointment

** denotes Commission Chairperson

APPENDIX C, TABLE 1

Timelines and Milestones for the Commission and SSTP

Date	Milestone
October 8, 2009	Met with SBE staff regarding Commission appointments
October 27, 2009	Letters to sent to appointers
November 13, 2009	Appointments made & appointees notified
Nov 13 – Dec 16th, 2009	Met with Chair of Commission prior to meeting
November 20, 2009	First internal (NCDPI) planning committee meeting held
December, 2009	Materials sent to Commission Members for advanced reading & preparation
December 16, 2009	First Meeting of reassembled School Technology Commission
January, 2010	SBE Chair, Dr. Harrison, appointed the chair of the Commission
January 19, 2010	Meet with Chairperson of Commission and Drs. Harrison and Atkinson to set agenda for January meeting
January 21, 2010	Status Update in Friday Update for State Board of Education
Feb 1, 2010	Status Update to Joint Education Oversight Committee
Feb – November 2010, 2009	State School Technology Plan internal working committee develops plan
January – April, 2010	Subsequent monthly Commission Meetings
December 2010	SSTP to State Board of Education for discussion
January 2011	SSTP to State Board of Education for Action
January 2011	Submit SSTP to ITS for approval
February 1, 2010	Status with New State School Technology Plan to Joint Education Oversight Committee
July 1, 2011	State Plan – Effective
November 1, 2011	LEA Technology Plans due to NCDPI
July 1, 2012	LEA Technology Plans Effective